

Attorney Docket No.: DMBC-0007  
Inventors: Harry C. Morris  
Serial No.: 10/840,052  
Filing Date: May 6, 2004  
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1-2: (canceled)

Claim 3: (previously presented) The friction resistant coater or doctor blade of claim 10 wherein the protective layer comprises low phosphorous electroless nickel.

Claim 4: (previously presented) The friction resistant coater or doctor blade of claim 10 wherein the protective layer is between 0.0002 to 0.0009 inches thick.

Claim 5: (previously presented) The friction resistant coater or doctor blade of claim 10 wherein the blade-shaped substrate base comprises carbon strip steel, stainless steel, stainless alloy or bronze.

Claim 6-7 (canceled)

Claim 8: (currently amended) A method of producing a friction resistant coater or doctor blade for applying inks and coatings to paper and packaging comprising:

applying a protective layer of chromium, low phosphorus nickel or electroplated hard chrome to ~~an edge~~ at least an angled edge of a front side of a blade-shaped substrate base; and

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heat treating said protective layer on the blade-shaped substrate for an amount of time suitable to provide a Rockwell C hardness measurement of greater than 70 to said protective layer; and

~~packaging the blade shaped substrate in a coiled roll~~  
so that durability, smoothness, gloss and erosion are increase, run time for the coater or doctor blade is increased to three to four times greater than that of Blue Polished 1095 Steel, and streaking and coefficient of friction of the coater or doctor blade are decreased.

Claim 9: (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the protective layer comprises low phosphorous electroless nickel.

Claim 10: (currently amended) A friction resistant coater or doctor blade for applying inks and coatings to paper and packaging ~~comprising~~ consisting of a blade-shaped substrate base with an edge a front side and a reverse side and angled edges on the front side and reverse side which allows coating or ink to be evenly applied to paper or board, and a protective layer of chromium, low phosphorus nickel or electroplated hard chrome applied to at least the angled edge of said blade-shaped substrate, said protective layer heat treated after application to at least the angled edge of the blade-shaped substrate base to provide a Rockwell C hardness of greater than 70 which increases durability, smoothness, gloss, erosion resistance and run time for the coater or doctor blade to three to four times greater than that of Blue Polished 1095 Steel and decreases

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streaking and coefficient of friction of the coater or  
doctor blade, wherein said friction resistant coater or  
doctor blade is packaged in a coiled roll.